

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02996 180542Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
TRSE-00 /076 W
-----010255 181818Z /75

R 171246Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1009
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2996

USICA FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO SENATE ACTION ON SAUDI-EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI AIRCRAFT

1. KUWAITI PRESS OF MAY 17 QUOTES MINISTER OF STATE FOR
CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN AS CALLING SENATE VOTE ON SUBJECT
AIRCRAFT SALES "A POSITIVE STEP THAT INDICATES A CHANGE IN
POPULAR AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ARAB NATION." HUSSEIN
REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS ACTION FORETOLD A
MORE GENERAL CHANGE IN US POLICY.

2. MAY 17 PRESS REACTION TO THE SENATE MOVE WAS CONFINED
LARGELY TO NEWS STORIES, MOST OF THEM HEADLINED ON FRONT
PAGES AND SOME HIGHLIGHTING THE ALLEGED "DEFEAT" OF ISRAELI
INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON. SEVERAL PAPERS HEADLINED THE
REPORTED ISRAELI STATEMENT OF REGRET. ONE EXCLUSIVE STORY
FROM RIYADH (IN AL-SIYASAH) QUOTED THE SAUDI MIN/INFO
YAMANI AS SAYING THAT SENATE ACTION MEANS THE "FALL OF
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ZIONIST FORCES IN AMERICA...WE HAVE BEEN VICTORIOUS IN
THE HEART OF WASHINGTON." A KUWAIT TIMES COLUMN,
HOWEVER, WARNED READERS NOT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THE
"SYMBOLIC VICTORY" OF THE SENATE VOTE, ASSERTING THAT
THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN THE CHAMBER WANTED TO HELP
PRES. CARTER "SAVE FACE" AND THAT ALLEGATIONS OF A
COMMUNIST THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, USED TO

PERSUADE THE CONGRESS, WERE "DOUBTFUL." STATING THE
ASSUMPTION THAT THE SAUDIS HAD PROMISED THE US NOT TO USE
THE AIRCRAFT AGAINST ISRAEL, THE WRITER QUERIED WHETHER
THEY WOULD EVER BE USED.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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